

WEST COAST COALITION RESOLUTION

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
December 2003 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

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PURPOSE:

To inform the Commission of WSDOT's endorsement of the West Coast Coalition resolution regarding reauthorization of TEA-21.

ACTION/OUTCOME:

Informational only.

BACKGROUND:

A new West Coast Coalition – representing transportation agencies from Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California – is organizing to lobby for increased federal funding in freight investments in our region. The west coast states serve as the U.S. gateway to Asia, and therefore provide a disproportionate benefit to the national economy and receive disproportionate impacts from freight thruput.

DISCUSSION:

Resolution Highlights –

“SAFETEA should provide additional funding to West Coast states, regions, and local agencies to recognize cost burdens and mitigate adverse impacts on communities that must site and pay for project expansions that serve the rising volumes of global trade to and from the rest of the United States and North America; and

SAFETEA should support multi-state, multi-regional public and private sector partnership approaches to plan, fund, and develop transportation system improvements that relieve congestion related to goods movement, improve operational efficiency, and rehabilitate transportation infrastructure.”

RECOMMENDATION:

N/A.

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